

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of forming an axle assembly comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a cylindrical hollow member having an end portion;
 - b) forming the end portion to provide a first generally circular end; and
 - c) welding a preformed kingpin boss to the generally circular end.
2. The method according to claim 1, further including the step of bending the hollow portion to a desired shape subsequent to step c).
3. The method according to claim 1, further including the step of inserting a bulkhead into a cavity of the hollow member prior to step b).
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step b) includes forming the end portion into a generally frustoconical shape.
5. The method according to claim 1, further including the steps of forming the hollow member into a generally polygonal cross-section after said step a).
6. The method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:
 - a1) inserting a bulkhead into a cavity of the hollow member prior to said step b); and
 - a2) forming the hollow member into a generally polygonal cross-section prior said step b).

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7. A method of forming an axle assembly comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a cylindrical hollow member having an end portion;
 - b) forming the end portion to provide a kingpin boss; and
 - c) bending the hollow member to a desired shape
 8. The method according to claim 7, further including the steps of forming the hollow member into a generally polygonal cross-section.
 9. The method according to claim 7, further including the steps of:
 - a1) inserting a bulkhead into a cavity of the hollow member prior to said step b);
and
 - a2) forming the hollow member into a generally polygonal cross-section prior said step b).
 10. The method according to claim 7, further including the step of forming a multi-wall thickness length in the hollow member.